

Scope Creep in Web Development

Scope Creep is when we find we are committing our time and energy to a project, only to discover that our clients' responsibilities and expectations are growing far beyond the initial requirements.

This can lead to additional stress, time and addition costs to QUICKWEBSITE.

What is Scope Creep?

Scope Creep is a term used when the magnitude of a project exceeds or creeps past the boundaries of its original goals and objectives.

Characteristics of Scope Creep in Web Design

Scope creep has many different appearances for our web developers. It is a result of our clients often wanting to add/change additional features to our original questionnaire provided or as they have learned about them from colleagues or when they have visited other websites.

Some of the common forms of scope creep include:

- Change of look and feel of website as per original questionnaire provided
- Fresh images on each site visit
- Unlimited images, galleries and slideshows
- Company Logo's
- Page counters
- Web copy and content writing
- Creating additional pages

Blogging services

- Social media account setup and management
- Social media icons and feeds
- Periodic updates
- Advanced SEO services
- Training
- Restoration of website
- Additions of categories/products to E-commerce website

Clients make the error in assuming that the above are included in designing or redesigning a website.

If clients want these services included, they need to add them to their project agreement at an additional cost. Clients need to be very specific if they require periodic site updates and how often is "periodic?"

Causes

Scope creep may appear in a variety of forms, these four causes of scope creep are common to our web developers.

1. Our clients do not always clearly tell us what they want because they simply don't understand what we can do for them.
2. We find that scope creep can magnify as a result of an unclear or misunderstanding of the web design project, this leads additional time, resources and costs.

3. We find that our clients like to slide in a few extra project requirements which does not form part of the original agreement.
4. We find it much easier for us to communicate fees for extra work if we can point out that the work is outside of the agreed upon deliverables.

Impact of Scope Creep on Web Design Projects

Scope creep has many negative results. It can increase our workload and lead to stress for our design team as well as it could decrease the quality of our work. The added work can either pull us away from work for our other clients or force us to pay wages to a subcontractor to complete the extra tasks. In some cases, it means us going back to make additional changes to work we have already completed.

Unless addressed by our design team, scope creep means spending more time doing more work but not making more money, thereby reducing profits. It is also more difficult for us to meet project deadlines, and the added stress can lead to strained relationships with our clients and between members of our development and design team. At its worst, scope creep can result in projects being incomplete and lost.

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